## LEWIS MARKS AND ALEXANDER O. BRODIE.

DECEMBER 28, 1831.

Mr. CAMBRELENG, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

## REPORT:

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the petition of Lewis Marks, a Consul of the United States, now residing in Germany, report:

The petitioner represents, that, after the passage of the tariff of 1824, he imported into the United States Greek and Latin books, printed anterior to the year 1775, which were charged with a duty of four cents a volume. That he afterwards imported books of the same description, under the impression that the same duty would be charged; but, in consequence of other instructions from the Treasury, a higher duty was charged. The petitioner prays to be relieved from this excess of duty, upon the ground that he had previously imported the same description of books, under the same act; and that, whatever construction may be put upon the act of 1824, it was not the intention of Congress to levy a higher duty than four cents a volume on books so ancient and rare. The prayer of the petitioner is supported by the act of 19th of May, 1828, which amends the act of 1824, and admits Greek and Latin books, printed previous to 1775, at four cents a volume, in conformity to the first construction put upon the act of 1824. The committee report a bill, authorizing the Collector of the Port of New York to deduct from the bond of Alexander Oswald Brodie, the agent of Lewis Marks, the amount of extra duties on 700 volumes of Greek and Latin books, and Polyglott Bibles, printed chiefly in the 15th and 16th centuries, and all anterior to the year 1775, imported at that port in the month of January, 1826, in the brig Nancy from Hamburg.

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